



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 335, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-2470

### AGENDA ITEM

**DATE:** October 4, 2016

**17**

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**SUBJECT:** OPPOSITION TO PROPOSITION 64 (Legalization of Marijuana) (DISTRICTS: ALL)

#### **Overview**

Proposition 64, also known as the California Marijuana Legalization Initiative, would allow adults aged 21 years old or older to possess and use marijuana for recreational purposes, allow local governments to restrict where marijuana businesses could locate, permit local governments to impose and collect marijuana-related fees and taxes, and reduces penalties for marijuana related convictions.

Legalization of recreational marijuana would bring a handful of problems. Perhaps of most concern is that legalization of marijuana would lead to more impaired drivers on our roadways, and that our youth would have much greater access to marijuana.

In addition to the public safety hazards associated with the legalization of marijuana, the increase in the State bureaucracy that would be needed to regulate marijuana would be staggering. It is estimated that at least seven different State agencies will be needed to develop rules to implement and regulate marijuana. Furthermore, those rules and regulations are currently being developed and will likely not be promulgated until 2018 at the earliest.

Legalization of recreational marijuana has already occurred in 4 other states. We need only to look at their experience and the public safety issues they have faced to realize this is a bad idea for California. In the states where marijuana has been legalized, marijuana-related traffic deaths are up dramatically, youth access to marijuana has sharply risen, emergency department marijuana related and hospital marijuana related admissions have risen dramatically, tourism has been negatively affected, and the underground black market distribution and sales of marijuana has increased dramatically.

The public safety risks associated with Proposition 64 are too severe to ignore. Therefore, with the support of Sheriff Bill Gore and District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis, today's action will adopt a resolution stating the County of San Diego's opposition to Proposition 64.

**SUBJECT: OPPOSITION TO PROPOSITION 64 (Legalization of Marijuana)**  
**(DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**Recommendation(s)**

**SUPERVISOR JACOB, SHERIFF BILL GORE, AND DISTRICT ATTORNEY BONNIE DUMANIS**

Adopt the resolution titled:

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
OPPOSING CALIFORNIA STATE PROPOSITION 64

**Fiscal Impact**

N/A

**Business Impact Statement**

N/A

**Advisory Board Statement**

N/A

**Background**

Proposition 64, also known as the California Marijuana Legalization Initiative, would allow adults aged 21 years old or older to possess and use marijuana for recreational purposes, allow local governments to restrict where marijuana businesses could locate, permit local governments to impose and collect marijuana-related fees and taxes, and reduces penalties for marijuana related convictions.

Legalization of recreational marijuana would bring a handful of problems. Perhaps of most concern to law enforcement is that legalization of marijuana would lead to more impaired drivers on our roadways.

According to the Office of National Drug Control Policy, marijuana is associated with many detrimental health effects. These effects can include respiratory illness, problems with learning and memory, increased heart rate, and impaired condition. It is important to realize that marijuana being sold and distributed today have much greater levels of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the psychoactive component in marijuana, than in years prior. This is due to the expanding practice of producing marijuana concentrates. Concentrates are produced using butane, or other highly volatile gases, to extract as much THC as possible from a marijuana plant. This results in marijuana products that have dangerously high THC levels, and are therefore much more dangerous and deadly for those who consume them.

Four states have already legalized marijuana. It is no longer an “experiment”, but rather a stark public safety reality that legalization of marijuana results in many negative consequences. According to the most recent study in September 2016 by the Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (RMHIDTA), marijuana-related traffic deaths have increased 48 percent in Colorado since marijuana was legalized in 2013. Furthermore, youth marijuana use has increased by 20 percent, and adult use has increased by 17 percent. The study also found that emergency department and hospital admissions related to marijuana have increased by 49 percent.

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(DISTRICTS: ALL)**

In order to regulate marijuana, State bureaucracy that would be needed to be greatly expanded to deal with the increase in public safety and health issues. It is estimated that at least seven different State agencies will be needed to develop rules to implement and regulate marijuana. Furthermore, those rules and regulations are currently being developed and will likely not be promulgated until 2018 at the earliest.

The public safety risks associated with Proposition 64 are too severe to ignore. Therefore, with the support of Sheriff Bill Gore and District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis, today's action will adopt a resolution stating the County of San Diego's opposition to Proposition 64.

**Linkage to the County of San Diego Strategic Plan**

Today's proposed action supports the Safe Communities Initiative of the County of San Diego's 2015-2020 Strategic Plan by protecting our residents from the public safety and health risks associated with recreational marijuana.

Respectfully submitted,

DIANNE JACOB  
Supervisor, Second District

BILL GORE  
Sheriff

BONNIE DUMANIS  
District Attorney

ATTACHMENT(S)  
Resolution

**SUBJECT:** OPPOSITION TO PROPOSITION 64 (Legalization of Marijuana)  
(DISTRICTS: ALL)

**AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET**

**REQUIRES FOUR VOTES:**       Yes     No

**WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED**  
 Yes     No

**PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:**  
Opposition to Proposition 19, September 14, 2010

**BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:**  
N/A

**BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:**  
N/A

**MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:**  
N/A

**ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION NUMBER(S):**  
N/A

**ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT:** Supervisor Dianne Jacob

**OTHER CONCURRENCES(S):** N/A

**CONTACT PERSON(S):**

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